

## FOUL BROOD AMONG BEES.

Its Cause And Cure By William M'Evoy, of Woodburn.

Foul brood is a disease that is caused by the rotting of un-cured for brood. It usually originates in spring in weak colonies that have spring-dwindled so badly that they have not bees enough left to cover or care for all the brood, and if the spring keeps raw and backward the bees will crowd together to keep each other warm, leaving the uncared for brood to die and rot in the cells. The brood covered by the bees in time hatches, which so increases the force of the colony that a wider circle of comb is covered by the bees taking in the space occupied by the decaying brood. Then the brood that is fed in these cells where brood lately rotted down will have to consume their food mixed with the remains of decayed brood; and that is the real and only cause of foul brood.

Some will say that many a time they have put combs with decayed brood in colonies and never saw any bad results. Very true, but they do such things in the honey season and put them in the strongest colonies, where the bees will clean them out at once. If we want our colonies to keep in a healthy state we must keep all decayed brood out of them.

Foul brood will almost be a thing of the past when every bee-keeper knows the real cause of it, looks well after his bees in the spring and sees that the brood is well cared for in every hive; and those that are not real strong must be crowded up on a few combs by using division boards. The young bee destroyed by foul brood first turns yellow; as it decays further it becomes brown, rotten, ropy matter, and many of the capped cells will be sunken a little in the capping, with a small hole in each. The disease is spread by the bees robbing foul brood colonies, and they carry the disease just in proportion to the amount of diseased honey they convey to their own hives.

In the honey season, when the bees are gathering honey freely, remove the combs and shake the bees into their own hives in the evening, give them comb foundation starters and let them build comb for four days. In the evening of the fourth day remove the comb and give them foundation to work out, and then the cure will be complete. Fill an empty two-story hive with the combs of foul brood that have been removed from two or more diseased colonies; close them up for two days; after that open the entrance and when most of the sound brood is hatched, remove those combs and give the bees starters of foundation in single bive and let them build combs for four days. Then in the evening of the fourth day take out those new combs and give them foundation to work on.

Let it be remembered that all of those operations should be performed in the honey season and done in the evenings, so that bees will become settled down nicely before morning. Before extraction from the diseased combs, all the combs that were not sealed must be cut out of the frames or some of the decayed brood will be thrown out with the honey. Then after cutting out the unsealed comb, uncap the sealed honey, extract it, and bring it to a boil. All the foul combs and the new combs that were built in the four days must be made into wax, and the dross from the wax extractor must be buried, because what runs out with the wax would not

relaxed condition and is then much more easily irritated and disturbed by improper food, and at this season great care should be exercised in selecting fruit, and all should be very carefully looked over, in a good light, and every bad spot or part cut away and rejected. Mouldy fruit remember is decayed fruit.

A system of careful inspection, and with a small magnifying glass, should be carried out wherever fruits are marketed. This point is sadly neglected.

Some plan too is much needed by which consumers could obtain fruits more directly from the producers, by which the fruits would be not only fresher but cheaper.—Canada Health Journal.

## A Decay Preventive.

A Belgian chemist has discovered a means for rendering fabrics, no matter how delicate in texture or color, proof against the ravages of decay. The wonderful state of preservation which the head-bands of Egyptian mummies exhibit is due to their having been impregnated with a kind of resin. This led the inventor to make certain experiments with the substance extracted from birch bark, to which the peculiar aroma of Russian leather is due, and he found out that the green tar which was left over after the oil used in tanning had been extracted from the birch tree yields neither acid nor alkaloid, and that in solution with alcohol it forms a liquid of remarkable fluidity, with the power of resisting, when once dried, even the action of alcohol itself. This substance will, it is said, unite with the most delicate and brilliant colors and render them imperishable.

## Berkshire Pig Points.

The Berkshire is a favorite breed of the genus *Lus* not only with John Bull but with Brother Jonathan, and hence what follows will prove of interest to many of our readers. According to an English live-stock authority the Berkshire is not only a pig of color, but of marking; and to obtain color and marking, he says that breeders and judges are alike willing to insist upon the production of this point in preference to the cultivation of utility and economy. There is much prejudice to be overcome if this state of things is to be counteracted, for there are few judges who would be bold enough to award prizes to a lean but first-rate animal of the right type in preference to a fat boar, got up for show, and looking as perfect as pigs can be made. Let the white marking upon the face, the tail and the feet be retained by all means; but a first-rate pig should not be disqualified by reason of the partial absence of these markings, or because they are a little in excess.

## FOWLS AND EGGS FOR MARKET.

Advice That May Prove Useful to Beginners.

In raising fowls for market flesh is the first consideration. Select therefore a breed which will make the greatest growth in the shortest time and be good quality for the table. Select according to the requirement of your own special market and your fancy—Langshans, Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Javas or Dorkings. These varieties, with their crosses, are hardy and, if intelligently fed, attain a large size at an early age. The Wyandotte just now is a popular fowl, the

silvers, goldens and blacks all having enthusiastic admirers; the white Wyandottes are also receiving high praise from their advocates. It is claimed that they are not only ornamental in the yards and toothsome of flesh, but good layers as well. The dark Brahmas are classed by many breeders as the best of the Brahma varieties.

With careful management there is none of our small industries that is more profitable than raising eggs for our city markets. When eggs alone are desired the fowls selected should be Leghorns, white-faced black Spanish, Minorcas or other laying breeds. Avoid the common mistake of giving too much stimulating food. Bear in mind the elements that enter into the composition of an egg and feed accordingly. Oats, wheat and barley are all good for eggs, with just enough corn to supply the proper degree of heat. A sudden change from one kind of grain to another will often stop hens from laying for a short time, as will sudden change of any feed. Whole corn, being hard to digest, should be given very sparingly to laying pullets. Supplement the food of laying hens with an occasional relish of ground bone, chopped meat and charcoal.

## Feed the Cow.

Bran and grain are cheap as well as milk. Store them in the cow now, that she may be in good shape to produce milk when better prices rule—we don't mean fat her, but grass alone, and such watery grass as some parts of the country are producing this season, is very poor stuff to build up the system of a cow that is a good milker. Give some bran or grain, or both, to help out—we feed bran and a little cornmeal each day.

## The Manure Heap.

Whenever manure is handled it is so much added to the cost; hence any labor required in preparing the food, or reducing the litter before adding it to the heap, is saved when the manure is to be handled. The most disagreeable work on the farm is the handling of manure that is full of cornstalks, straw and other long litter. Manure should be decomposed, and the finer the material that is added to it the quicker its reduction by decomposition.

## Right Kind of Food.

Economy in feeding does not refer to reducing the food required, but to regulate it in quality that nothing may be wasted. Much of the food given is simply converted into manure. It does not pay to feed woody fibre and water when more nutritious material is required in order to produce the saleable product from an animal.

## Salt for Cows.

A dairyman claims that two ounces of salt per day to each cow increased the butter product one-fifth, which indicates that a loss may occur by the failure to supply some inexpensive essential, though the farmer may be feeding liberally and giving his animals the best of care otherwise.

## Catching Chickens.

When chickens are to be caught it is best to do it after they have gone to roost. The chasing liable to ensue if one attempts to catch them during the day not only annoys the person in pursuit, but is highly injurious to the fowl. Besides all the other poultry is generally frightened, and more or less injury results from this.